

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 10734

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, JA

SUBJ: LDP DIET MEMBERS FISHERY MISSION: VIEWS OF LEADER TAKEO OKUBO

REF: TOKYO 10392

SUMMARY: DURING JULY 21-22 WASHINGTON VISIT 5-MEMBER LDP DIET GROUP WILL REQUEST FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION FOR JAPANESE INTERESTS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW US FISHERY LAW ON GROUNDS OF JAPAN'S SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH US. DIETMEN WILL EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE OF JAPAN'S NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY IN PROVIDING JOBS AND FOOD AND THE IMPLICATIONS THE US ACT HAS FOR JAPAN'S RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION. END SUMMARY

1. ACCORDING FONOFF, ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED FOR FIVE LDP DIET MEMBERS TO VISIT WASHINGTON JULY 21-22 FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH KEY US OFFICIALS RE IMPLEMENTATION OF FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1976 AND AUGUST RENEGOTIATION OF US-JAPAN FISHERY AGREEMENT. MISSION MEMBERS ARE:

1) TAKEO OKUBO (LEADER IN PLACE OF ZENKO SUZUKI WHO HAD ORIGINALLY
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PLANNED TO GO), 73, LOWER HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE FROM KUMAMOTO PRE-

FECTION AND OHIRA FACTION MEMBER WHO SPENT HIS EARLY CAREER AS A BUREAUCRAT IN MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, RISING TO DIRECTOR GENERAL OF MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY BEFORE ENTERING POLITICS. IN 1974 KUBO SERVED BRIEFLY AS LABOR MINISTER IN TANAKA CABINET AND HAS TAKEN ACTIVE INTEREST IN DEFENSE QUESTIONS THROUGHOUT HIS PARLIAMENTARY CAREER.

2) ICHIRO NAKAGAWA, 51 LOWER HOUSE MEMBER FROM HOKKAIDO AND FOUNDER OF "SEIRANKAI" SUPRA-FRACTIONAL GROUP OF YOUNGER LDP DIETMEN WHICH HAS TAKEN PRO-ROC AND -ROK POSITIONS ON FOREIGN POLICY QUESTIONS.

3) TAKAMI ETO, 51, LOWER HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE FROM MIYAZAKI PREFECTURE AND NAKASONE FACTION MEMBER WHO HAS SERVED AS A PARLIAMENTARY VICE-MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.

4) MASAO MIYAZAKI, 69, UPPER HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE FROM TOTTORI, AND

5) SHIGERU SUGANAMI, 63, LOWER HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE FROM FUKUSHIMA. JAPANESE EMBASSY WASHINGTON HAS REQUESTED APPOINTMENTS FOR GROUP WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER, DEPUTY SECRETARY ROBINSON, SECRETARY OF COMMERCE RICHARDSON, AND LEADING CONGRESSIONAL FIGURES IN FISHERY AFFAIRS (MAGNUSON, STEVENS, GRAVEL, PACKWOOD, MUSKIE, JOHNSTON, KENNEDY, MC INTYRE, SULLIVAN, LEGGETT, PRITCHARD AND OTHERS).

2. IN JULY 14 DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF, MISSION LEADER OKUBO DESCRIBED THE PURPOSE OF DIET GROUP'S VISIT AS ONE OF SEEKING ASSURANCES FROM US LEADERS THAT JAPAN WILL GET SPECIAL CONSIDERATION UNDER US FISHERY CONSERVATION LAW OUT OF REGARD FOR ITS POSITION AS A US ALLY AND THE HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE OF SIH AS A MAJOR SOURCE OF FOOD FOR THE JAPANESE PEOPLE. THE DIETMEN, HE SAID, WILL EXPLAIN THAT NORTH PACIFIC QUOTA CUTBACKS TO THE LEVELS BEING DESCRIBED IN THE MEDIA REPRESENT A LOSS OF ABOUT 4,000 JOBS AND 100,000 GROSS TONS OF FISHING VESSELS, POTENTIALLY A SEVERE BLOW TO BOTH THE JAPANESE ECONOMY AND FOOD SUPPLY. OKUBO SAID HE BELIEVES DIET IS PREPARED TO APPROVE THE 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE AS DESCRIBED IN LOS TEXT BUT IS DISTURBED THAT SOME ASPECTS OF NEW US LAW ARE MORE SEVERE THAN LOS. OKUBO WOULD

NOT CONFIRM THAT DIET RATIFICATION OF GIFA IS A CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT BUT SAID THAT IF GOJ SHOULD SIGN AND UNFACORABLE "ADMINISTRATIVE" AGREEMENT, THE MATTER WOULD INEVITABLY BE PURSUED VIGOROUSLY IN DIET INTERPOLATIONS. US ASSURANCES OF SATISFACTORY CATCH LEVELS, HE OPINED, WOULD DISPATCH MOST LEGAL DOUBTS BUT LDP, HE CONFIDENTIAL

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CONTINUED, WOULD HAVE TO SHOW IN PARTICULAR THAT JAPAN WAS RECEIVING MORE FAVORABLE TREATMENT ON FISHERIES THAN THE SOVIET UNION IN ORDER TO FEND OFF DIET CRITICS OF JAPAN'S SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US. (TIGHT LIMITATIONS ON SOVIET FISHING, OKUBO POINTED OUT, WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL IN CONTROLLING SPY SHIPS.) ON THE OTHER HAND, HE ADDED, IT SHOULD NOT APPEAR THAT JAPAN AND THE US HAVE GANGED UP ON THE SOVIETS TO OUST THEM FROM THE US ZONE LEST THE SOVIETS RETALIATE BY HARASSING JAPANESE COASTAL FISHING. JAPAN IS IN A QUAN-

DARY OVER ENFORCEMENT IN ITS OWN FORTHCOMING 200-MILE ZONE, OKUBO
MENTIONED. IT IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED, HE SAID, ABOUT ACKNOWLEDGING

ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES BY THE US VIS-A-VIS JAPANESE NATIONALS WHICH,
JAPAN LACKING ANY CREDIBLE NAVAL FORCE, WOULD BE UNABLE TO CARRY OUT
VIS-A-VIS SOVIET VESSELS OFF ITS COAST. THESE ISSUES, AND OTHER
SOVIET ASPECTS OF THE FISHERIES PROBLEM, HE CONCLUDED, AFFECT THE
US SECURITY ROLE IN NORTH EAST ASIA, AND HE WANTS TO BRING THEM UP
WITH US OFFICIALS.
HODGSON

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